

THE CLARION.

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We are inclined to hope from the latest reports that the Mississippi side of the lower Mississippi river, will escape serious damage from the overflow. Louisiana is not faring so well.

The only way to get the tariff bill out of the Presidential election is for Congress to adopt a measure having the raising of revenue, and not the protection of favored interests, for its main object.

The Senate has voted to reduce the tobacco tax from 16 to 8 cents a pound, and the cigar tax from \$6 to \$3 per thousand; also to allow farmers to sell to consumers and not merely to licensed dealers, tobacco of their own production.

An unexpected denouement has occurred in the case of Rerdell one of the Star Route conspirators on trial in the U. S. Court at Washington. He has confessed his crime and turned State's evidence. His testimony is direct as to the guilt of Dorsey, Brady and other ringleaders of the clan.

The new Governor of Pennsylvania in his message sounds the key-note of reform. Among his recommendations are the abolition of the fee system for paying public officers and the fixing of definite salaries where practicable; the sweeping away of useless and expensive offices; the revoking of unused charters; and the enforcement of laws against railway discriminations in charges and facilities.

THE CLARION has raised the question of re-districting the State by the next Legislature, and we think it a proper thing to do. The present arrangement is unsatisfactory to many counties, and a remodeling, so as to bring the greatest good to the greatest number, will be in order. Should it be attempted, individual interests should be buried out of sight, and the public good only considered. The canvass for the Legislature will develop the wishes of the people on the subject, and the Representatives elected will be prepared to act with calm deliberation in the matter. Let the will of the people be respected.—Corinth Herald.

The Herald puts the proposition more strongly than we intended. It is not to "re-district" the State, so much as to amend the existing law.

A CONTEMPORARY says that "it is absurd for a government to continue the coinage of money which it will not require its creditors to accept." True enough. It further says, "it is still more absurd to require the public creditor to take his pay in two sorts of coin, one of which differs seriously in value from the other." It certainly cannot be "absurd" to expect "creditors" to receive payment in the identical coin called for in the contract. Besides there was no stipulation that the value of the coins should be equalized. It is the privilege of the debtor to pay in the cheapest; but either is good enough.

We have been informed that Hon. D. L. Smythe, of Attala, and Hon. Frank C. McGee, of Clarke, have consented to become candidates to represent their respective Districts in the State Senate. Without presuming to indicate a preference to the voters to whom their claims will be submitted, we can with propriety say from knowledge of their course in the Legislature upon important economic questions that will come before that body, their ability to see the right, and their firmness to pursue it—that if elected the interests of the people would be safely confided to their keeping.

In the House of Representatives on the 19th, Mr. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, moved to suspend the rules to put on its passage a bill reported by the Committee to reduce the internal revenue taxes \$40,000,000. Two-thirds being required to suspend, the motion failed by a vote of 162 for and 97 against it. The vote was mixed as to parties, though most of the Democrats voted against suspension, and most of the Republicans voted for it. The Democrats who voted against it were influenced by the belief that if the bill should pass, it would operate against the reduction of the tariff. In the Mississippi delegation, the vote stood: Aye: Lynch; Hooker, Manning, Muldrow, Money, Singleton.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE TAX.

The collection of an internal revenue tax by the government has not been the rule but the exception. The system has been resorted to but three times in the century of the existence of the government, and they were crises of peculiar and pressing emergency.

To pay the revolutionary war debt, Mr. Madison in 1789 introduced in Congress a bill for the collection of duties on imports; but as the trade between foreign countries and the United States was limited, the measure was not deemed sufficient for the emergency, and Alexander Hamilton originated a bill to impose internal revenue taxes. It passed Congress, but was objectionable to the people, and so universally detested that it was repealed in the early days of Mr. Jefferson's administration. The Pennsylvania "rebellion" against it is a familiar chapter of American history. In regard to that insurrection Mr. Jefferson wrote in 1793:

The people in the western part of Pennsylvania have been to the excise officer and threatened to burn his house. They were blackened and otherwise disgraced so as to be unknown. He has resigned, and there is no possibility of getting the law executed there. A proclamation is to be issued against the insurgents; another instance of my being forced to approve what I have condemned uniformly from its inception.

Mr. Jefferson was at that date a member of the Cabinet. When he became President, he urged the repeal of the law, and his advice was followed.

During the war of 1812, the system was again tried, but popular discontent compelled its repeal within five years. For the third time, during the late war, the United States government resorted to the same system, to use the common phrase of the time, "to raise money to put down the rebellion." But the struggle ended seventeen years ago; and the Southern States have long since resumed their places in the Federal Union and are discharging (as they had discharged before the war) all the obligations which devolved upon them. Still the system remains as an agency for the plunder, oppression and harrassing of the people.

It is so manifestly unnecessary in its present odious shape to the production of revenue for the legitimate expenses of the government, and the payment of the interest upon, and final payment of, the war debt, that it finds no avowed advocates. The class who are striving to continue it in force have baffled the efforts to repeal or to modify it by direct methods, pretending to fall in with the predominant sentiment, but thwarting by impracticable devices the means which are meant in good faith to attain the end.

The first question to be considered is, can the internal tax be repealed or radically modified, without reducing expenditures below the necessary demands of the government and interfering with the plan of reducing the tariff? This can best be answered by the figures given below, showing the total receipts and expenditures of the government for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1882:

Customs.....	\$220,410,730
Internal Revenue.....	146,497,595
Miscellaneous.....	36,616,925
Total.....	\$403,525,250
Expenditures.....	\$297,981,489
Net surplus.....	\$105,543,811

The item of expenditures includes the amount paid last year for interest on the public debt, viz: \$71,077,207. It also includes \$61,845,104 paid for pensions.

A net surplus of \$105,543,811—which is about the sum produced by the internal tax. With this showing, the question arises, if you reduce the internal tax, how is the tariff to be cut down? The answer is obvious. The present tariff is not strictly a revenue tariff. Its two-fold object is to build up and subsidize monopolies and not to produce revenue. Let the former feature be abandoned, and make it a tariff for "revenue only." Adjust it for the purpose of raising revenue; and for that purpose strictly. In its present shape, it prohibits imports and deprives the government of its needed revenues in order to prevent competition and to give bounties to monopolies. Would a repeal of these taxes render a high tariff necessary? Mr. Randolph Tucker, the distinguished Virginia Representative, well answers: "On the contrary, if the government for its revenue were left to a tariff on imports it would be driven to reform the tariff on revenue principles. Duties would be laid to increase revenue, not to prohibit imports, thus destroying revenue. A revenue tariff would be the necessity of the government if internal taxes were repealed." From the same distinguished source we quote:

The internal revenue system is a fearful nest from which public patronage hatches the instruments for controlling elections in the States. They have been the source of more petty tyranny (and he might have added, more corruption) and of more interference with the freedom of elections by the patronage of the federal power than has ever been known in the history of the country.

Yes! We echo, break up the "nest" as soon as possible. It gives shelter to thousands of spies, informers, and blood-

suckers, and affords them riches and luxurious living at the expense of the laboring masses.

Repeal the internal tax except as to spirits.

Wipe out altogether the machinery of the internal revenue system, break up the "nest" of collectors, spies, informers and other vampires, and stop the expenditure of \$5,500,000, wasted in gathering the tax. All with the view of relieving the people by reducing their burdens to an economical basis.

The Election of Judges.

To Mississippi belongs the honor of inaugurating the elective judiciary system. It was grafted upon her Constitution by the Convention of 1832. It worked well and she adhered to it until the State government fell into the hands of the political adventurers in 1869, who sought to make it a close corporation for the perpetuation of their own rule. Nearly every other State in the Union followed the example set by Mississippi in 1832. The experiment proved a complete success. No State ever had an able judiciary than Mississippi during her palmy days, when her judges were elected by her people. The system was abolished and the appointing power was vested in the Executive, when the sceptre was taken from their hands with the bayonet.

One of the chief objections to the appointive system is, that it lodges vast powers in the hands of one person and subordinates one important branch of the State government to another department. For this reason it has been proposed to return to the elective system. But the proposition is met by the objection that a new and incapable element has been invested with the privilege of suffrage, and the system would be dangerous to public liberty under existing surroundings. The same argument would lead to the total subversion of popular government and the establishment of the despotism of a privileged order. We notice that the Greenville Times has proposed a compromise between the two extremes of Executive appointment and popular election. It proposes to devolve the choice upon the Legislature. We readily affirm that such a plan would be free from some of the serious objections which are urged against the appointive system devised by the carpet-baggers in framing the present Constitution.

The Silver Question.

Director Burchard of the mint tells the coinage committee it is unwise to coin more silver till an international standard fixing the ratio between gold and silver is established. We guess that persons who have been accustomed to say that our warning against a plot to repeal the silver coinage law and demonetize that metal, was sensational and without foundation, have been convinced by recent events, that we were right. And by the way, if the public will pause and think, it will realize that THE CLARION has not often put it on the wrong track. Frequently we have been misrepresented and misconstrued; but that has amounted to nothing. Time is a faithful vindicator, and it has never failed, sooner or later to make things even.

So far as an "international standard" is concerned, it is simply a stumbling block invented for the occasion. When the framers of the Constitution provided that silver should be coined for the use of the people they never prescribed such a condition. The anti-silver party have made an international agreement, a condition to its coinage in this country, and have gone deliberately to work to find out how not to do it. They complain that there is not enough pure silver in the dollar, but on investigation they will discover that the dollar coined by the United States has more silver in it than the dollar coined by any other nation; and besides, it is precisely the dollar which the money barons at whose instance the attempt is made to destroy it, contracted to receive in payment of the principal and interest of their bonds.

Political Points.

The new Grant movement is absolutely so small and feeble that it is positively unfeeling for any one to laugh at it.

As Gentleman George Pendleton sinks into the background in Ohio, the red bandanna of Judge Thurman is again seen waving at the front.

The Tariff Commission did a gallant thing in putting corsets on the free list.

The "infant" industry, remarks the Savannah News, that can outbawl the pig-iron interest in crying for more pap is entitled to the finest chromo that can be procured.

AMERICAN SENTIMENT: A bill is before the Connecticut Legislature which provides that the voter shall remove his hat while depositing his ballot. This would be carrying politeness to extremes. The most important matter is purity of the ballot—a fair vote first, and then consider the question of etiquette at the polls.

Gov. Bate's Message.

Gov. Bate of Tennessee is on the line of progress, and it is now a question whether his State or some other shall be the twenty-fourth which has carried into operation the democratic, anti-monopolistic doctrine that "corporations are supervisable in the interest, and for the protection of the people." The following is an extract from his message:

I recommend the enactment of a Railroad Commission, the duty of which shall be, on among other things, to regulate, as far as practicable, the tariffs of transportation railroads, and such other kindred duties appertaining to this vast interest as may be deemed proper to impose upon them. This commission should be composed of three capable persons; their duties be prescribed as minutely and accurately as practicable; when appointed, they be put under oath and proper bonds; the term of office of each commission shall be for two years, and they be chosen by the electors as representatives to the General Assembly are chosen; except for the first term of appointment, which should commence as soon after the passage of the act authorizing the same as practicable, and extend until the next general election for representatives in 1884, and that for the third named period they be elected by the General Assembly now in session; they should be paid quarterly by the State an annual salary of—dollars for their services; and be required to make such official reports at stated intervals, and publish the same, as the public interest may require.

THE Memphis Appeal strongly endorses this recommendation of the Governor, and says "it is earnestly to be hoped that the Legislature will not be deterred from passing a bill to provide for a Railroad Commission, such as Georgia has profited from, by what is being said against such a measure by railroad men. Such a commission would not interfere with prospective roads or those under construction. It would have to deal only with the regulation of the traffic of those now running, to compel them to an equitable system of rates, and for the relief of the people from present burdens in the form of unjust discriminations."

NEW YORK papers announce the death of Rev. Daniel De Vinne, one of the oldest members of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the ninetieth year of his age. Deceased was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and came to this country when a child. He became a convert to the Methodist faith in Albany in 1810, after which he began a course of self-culture and fitted himself for a teacher. He taught in Brooklyn for several years, and in 1818 removed to Mississippi, where he took charge of a school. While in Mississippi he was licensed to preach. In 1824 he was transferred to the New York Conference and died as above stated. Can any old inhabitant of Mississippi call to mind the Rev. Daniel De Vinne?

HON. E. F. NOEL is a candidate for District Attorney for this District. Mr. Noel has been a successful lawyer for the past seven years, and is fully qualified to fill with honor the position he seeks. He was a member of the last Legislature, from this county, where his labors in behalf of the people made him a record second to none in that body. In the Legislature, as everywhere else, he was always found attending to his duty, and as a Democrat, his record is spotless.—Lexington Advertiser.

We have not observed the announcements in our neighboring districts, and therefore do not intend to be understood as discriminating between rival candidates of our party, but as reference has been made to Mr. Noel's legislative career, we who have observed it closely, can say with candor that it is one with which his constituents have reason to be gratified. In all our observation we have never known a truer, a more capable, or a more faithful representative. To a judgment singularly clear and accurate, with habits studious and thoughtful, Mr. Noel combines inflexible integrity and firmness in the discharge of his public trusts.

The Raging Floods.

The freshest in the Ohio river is the worst that has been known in fifty years. Cincinnati and Louisville and a number of smaller towns on both sides of the river, are in great part covered with water, and the loss of property and suffering is immense. Forty thousand men are out of employment and the churches are turned into lodging houses.

All the cities and villages along the Ohio river are badly flooded. Lawrenceburg, Ind., with a population of 5,000, is inundated to the depth of two feet, and is virtually isolated. The Indiana Legislature has voted \$40,000 for the relief of the village. One-third of the city of Newport, Ky., opposite Cincinnati, is covered with water, and 3,000 families are in a suffering condition. Jeffersonville, Ind., has a population of 7,000, nearly half of whom have been compelled to abandon their homes. These are only a few of the many cases.

The Recent U. S. Supreme Court Decision.

St. Louis Republican: Three recent decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States affecting the rights of the States, settle the following questions: The first affirms the exclusive jurisdiction of the States over the civil rights of citizens. The second affirms the constitutionality of State laws prohibiting and making criminal the intermarriage of whites and blacks. The third denies the power of any State to abrogate or in any way impair the right of colored citizens to sit on juries on account of their color.

Biennial Elections.

Aberdeen Examiner: We are in favor of biennial elections, and in favor of holding the elections for State and county officers on the same day that is appointed for Congressional and Presidential balloting, but we are not ready to submit our State and county elections to the supervision and virtual control of Federal inspectors. This difficulty can however be easily obviated by establishing separate voting places at every precinct, with additional judges, so that there can be no interference in State or county affairs by the Federal officials. This plan would entail upon us the pay for two sets of officers on election days instead of one as under the present system, but then we would lose nothing by that as we would hold but one election where we hold two now, and would save considerable in the way of election advertising and other incidental expenses. But even if this plan for biennial elections was a little more expensive than we find the present annual system, is this additional expense worthy of a moment's consideration in view of the importance of local control of our dearest privilege? In the State of New York separate boxes are provided at the various polling places for Federal, State and County officers, and you vote three separate and distinct ballots at elections in which all three classes of officials are to be voted for, and we could in Mississippi secure a full vote at every election by adopting the biennial plan, and secure our State and its component parts against Federal supervision, manipulation or interference by having at each precinct two boxes and two sets of judges.

We are glad to see that THE CLARION and other influential Mississippi journals favor this plan, and hope that the Legislature at its next session will give the matter due attention.

Railroad Economy—No. 2.

The economy and industry which is used by individuals in the conduct of their private business should obtain in railroad management and even to a greater extent. On long or even ordinary lines of road the larger portion of the employees are of necessity located at points distant from the head office, and consequently away from the personal supervision of the Chief.

Daily, weekly and monthly reports only show what has been—not what ought to have been done—they show at what cost the service has been performed, and not at what cost it might have been done. So long as the employee can escape the censure of his supervisor he is content, and if the supervisor is lacking in energy or industry, you can hardly expect economical or even faithful work.

In most instances the President, who is the responsible head of the company either resides out of the State or is engaged in other pursuits that engage his personal attention—a semi-occasional trip over the road in a "special car," is all that is deemed necessary while these trips are known before hand to all the employees who are prepared to conceal all deficiencies and neglects, and thus making a favorable impression upon the distinguished visitor.

The president is not in most cases a practical man, and the small portion of his time devoted to the business does not enable him intelligently to direct the details of the business, or even to determine whether it is well done by others. He is consequently ill prepared to detect errors in management or correct abuses, should he by chance see or hear of them. Yet this president receives a princely salary and is presumed to be competent to the duties and is supposed to devote his time and talent to the business.

To a choir of officials with heads to the several departments is entrusted the real management of the business; and these officials, with very rare exception, have no interest in the company beyond their compensation, and in many cases are not selected for their known competency or ability, but because they are connected with the family of some prominent director or stockholder, and are ill fitted for the duty assigned them, while they receive a salary far beyond what their talents would command in any other business.

Heads of Departments make their headquarters at fixed points where they receive the reports of their subordinates in many cases passed without knowing how—nor is it possible for them to know unless they are constantly in active connection with the business.

It is supposable that services thus rendered can be either efficient or economical? Would an individual thus manage his own affairs? Would he not first inform himself and then give his constant and vigilant attention?

It must be borne in mind that all weak and expensive points in Railroad management must go to the large increase in the cost of operating and bears directly upon the producer, who must pay these expenses in the shape of freight charges.

OSKREVER.

THE Koscusko Star mentions that Mr. Marsalis, one of Attala county's best farmers, brought into that office a sample taken from about five hundred pounds of sugar, made by him. This reminds us that Mr. Archibald Colquhoun, planter of Simpson county, has sent us a sample of sugar of his own manufacture equal to the best brown sugar for sale in the New Orleans market. Mr. Colquhoun manufactures enough for his own use, and some to spare at reasonable prices for his neighbors—thus demonstrating what thrifty and enterprising Mississippi farmers can do. We need not say that Mr. C. raises his own meat and corn.

Power and Duties of the New York Railroad Commission.

Albany Journal.] For good or for evil New York's experiment at State supervision of the railroads begins to-day with the first meeting of the commission. The political circumstances which were connected with the passage of the bill and which gave it its peculiar character, have been so generally discussed as to obscure in part the provisions of the bill itself. The first three commissioners, one each respectively from the Democratic and the Republican party, and one named by two organizations, in which A. A. Thurber is the ruling spirit, known, however, as the National Board of Trade and Transportation and the National Antimonopoly League of New York. The New York Chamber of Commerce which has cast a vote in the Tripartite Council, favoring the Hon. A. B. Hepburn. After three years, however, appointments to the commission are to be made in the Governor's discretion, and with the consent of the Senate, without regard to political considerations, and independent of the anti-monopoly organization after the law is in full operation. The commissioners are to serve five years, one commissioner going out of office each year. Accordingly Mr. O'Donnell will serve but three years, and Mr. Bagin but four. Vacancies can be filled by the Governor in the usual constitutional manner, and the commissioners are subject to removal by the Governor on the presentation of written charges. Such removals must be approved by a majority of the Senate.

The commission shall be served by a marshal, and a marshal, to whom the duties customarily performed by such officers are assigned. These two subordinates however, shall have no official relations with any railroad, shall own no railroad stock, and shall have no pecuniary interest in any firm having business relations with railroads. The members of the commission, which shall take place at least once a month, shall be held in Albany, but the commission may establish branch offices at Buffalo and New York. Any two commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and may hold meetings anywhere within the State, at any time. The examinations and investigations provided for, may be held before a single commissioner, his decisions are not final until reviewed and confirmed by the board.

The powers and duties of the commissioners are large and varied. They are given "general supervision of all railroads and railways, so far as is necessary to enable them to perform the duties and exercise the powers imposed and conferred by law. They must examine the roads, and keep informed as to their condition, the way they treat the public, and how well they keep within the law. It is made their duty to investigate all accidents on the roads resulting in loss of life or damage to persons or property, which they think it worth while to examine. The managers of the roads must at once inform the commissioners of such accidents—and the latter must report to the Legislature annually the results of such investigations. The commission is the power at all times to examine the books and affairs of the roads, can compel the production of books and papers (copies), subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, compel attendance, etc., etc., like any court of record. Witnesses are to get \$2 per day and 5 cents per mile.

The commission must notify the managers whenever they find them violating the law or abusing their privileges, and if the managers continue, shall present the facts to the Attorney-General for his interference in the courts. It is the commission's duty, to make public any facts about the business of the roads of the State, which, if published might be prejudicial to their interests.

The commission is to make an annual report to the Legislature, with suggestions, and is also empowered to prescribe the form in which the railroads shall make their reports, furnishing blanks for the purpose. And these, in the discharge of their duty, are to ride free on all railroads on passenger lines, and on the railroads of the State, the managers or their employees are forbidden to accept any presents, passes, etc., on any railroad corporation, and also to recommend the employment of any person on the road. To reveal information obtained from one railroad company to another is made a misdemeanor.

THE following article is on the line what we ourselves have written condemning the practice referred to:

St. Louis Republican.—One of the greatest obstacles in the way of a test and revision of the tariff is the habit of legislators of consenting to exceptions to general principles on account of local interests. There is scarcely a district in thirty of the thirty-eight States, which has not some enterprise which needs, or thinks it needs, a degree of protection. When a department made from correct general principles, in most one case, the bars are pulled down by it on one hand, and the pockets of the people robbed by it on the other. The cause and the effect of corruption. Legislators must rise above it, even at the cost of local censure. There is no safe mode but to adhere to principles.

John M. Palmer of Illinois.

New York Sun.] If John M. Palmer should have in the next Democratic National Convention the unanimous support of all the delegates from Illinois, he would be pretty likely to be nominated for President.

(We have an old friend who firmly believes that if Palmer is nominated will go in like a flash.)

A Good Idea.

The army should be reduced to ten thousand men, West Point should be abolished, and in times of peace, army officers should in all cases be promoted from the ranks.